

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MOGADI 01613 171307Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /011 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6623

S E C R E T MOGADISCIO 1613

STADIS//////////

FOR AF/E POST AND HAMRICK FROM CHARGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MASS, SO, US

SUBJ: SCHEDULING THE MILITARY SURVEY TEAM

1. I APPRECIATED VERY MUCH DICK BAKER'S LETTER OF JULY 12 AND SAM'S EPISTLE OF JUNE 21. THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR HEARING REGULARLY AND INFORMALLY WHAT YOU ARE THINKING BACK THERE IN THE OFFICE AND WHAT KIND OF PROBLEMS AND PROCEDURES YOU HAVE IN GETTING DECISIONS.

2. IN THIS CONTEXT I AM SURE YOU ARE BEGINNING TO ASSEMBLE YOUR THOUGHTS ABOUT A NEW DATE FOR THE MILITARY SURVEY TEAM. DICK MENTIONED THAT YOU HOPE TO HAVE SOMETHING BY THE 19TH FOR THE SECRETARY'S RETURN. WE HAVE ALSO BEEN WRESTLING WITH THE SUBJECT HERE. I DON'T BELIEVE THERE IS ANYTHING I CAN ADD TO THE THOUGHTS FORWARDED IN MOGADISCIO 1519. I HAVE PURPOSELY AVOIDED THE WORD DESPARATE IN OUR CABLES, BUT MY OWN PERSONAL OPINION IS THAT SIAD IS DESPARATE FOR SOME CONCRETE SIGN FROM US THAT THE USG RECOGNIZES SOMALIA'S PLIGHT. I BELIEVE HE FEELS HIMSELF DISARMED IN FACT AS WELL AS IN THEORY WHEN HE APPROACHES HIS COLLEAGUES AND CRITICS. AND I DO NOT THINK IT IS PARTICULARLY WISE OF FAR-SIGHTED ON OUR PART TO WAIT AND SEE JUST HOW THIN HE CAN STRETCH HIMSELF BEFORE SOMETHING POPS.

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3. TO SATISFY MYSELF, AND YOU AS WELL, THAT THE THINKING IN MOGADISCIO 1519 WAS SOUND, I HAVE SPENT SEVERAL HOURS IN THE LAST FEW DAYS PROBING MY SENIOR COLLEAGUES IN THE CORPS FOR THEIR ANALYSIS OF THE PRESENT SITUATION. I FIND NO DISAGREEMENT. FREHCN AMBASSADOR MANTEL SEES A HEAVIER SOVIET HAND THAN I DO IN THE ETHIOPIAN AIR ATTACKS ON SOMALIA. NEITHER THE GERMAN NOR THE BRITISH

DIFFER IN ANY SIGNIFICANT WAY WITH OUR THINKING. METTERNICH IF ANYTHING BELIEVES WESTERN MILITARY ASSISTANCE MORE VITAL THAN WE. ALL THREE AMBASSADORS ENERGETICALLY AFFIRM THAT ANY SUCCESSOR TO SIAD IS LIKELY TO BE MORE DIFFICULT TO LIVE WITH AND LESS RESPONSIVE THAN THE PRESENT REGIME.

4. PERHAPS WE ALL SUFFER FROM MYOPIA, BUT I THINK NOT. IF THERE IS ANYTHING ELSE THE EMBASSY SHOULD SAY IN A NORMAL SERIES TELEGRAM BEFORE YOU BEGIN THE MEMORANDA WHICH WILL FORM THE BASIS FOR A NEW DECISION ON THE SURVEY MISSION, PLEASE LET ME KNOW. IN REVIEWING CABLES THIS AFTERNOON I FOCUSED UPON MY CLOSING COMMENT IN THE NAVAL VISITS MESSAGE (MOGADISCIO 1573). I DON'T THINK A REQUEST FOR A NAVAL VISIT, ALTHOUGH IT WILL BE WELCOMED, WOULD BE A SUBSTITUTE FOR THE TEAM VISIT. I DO THINK ANOTHER INDEFINITE POST-PONEMENT WOULD BE UNWISE.
VOUGHT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SURVEYS, MILITARY VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MOGADI01613
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780292-0963
Format: TEL
From: MOGADISCIO
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780753/aaaabscf.tel
Line Count: 78
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2eeb7f72-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1987155
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SCHEDULING THE MILITARY SURVEY TEAM
TAGS: MARR, MASS, SO, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2eeb7f72-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014